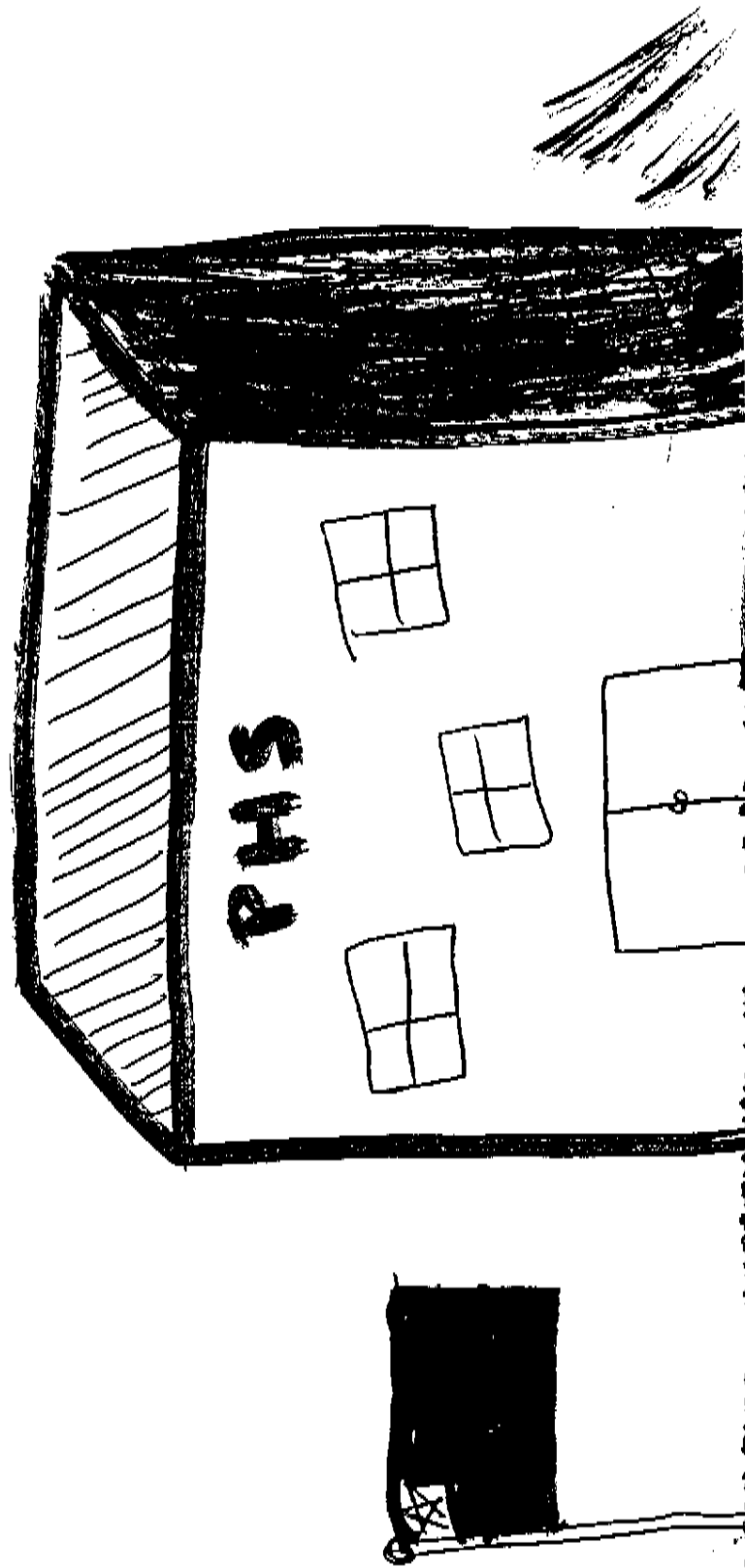
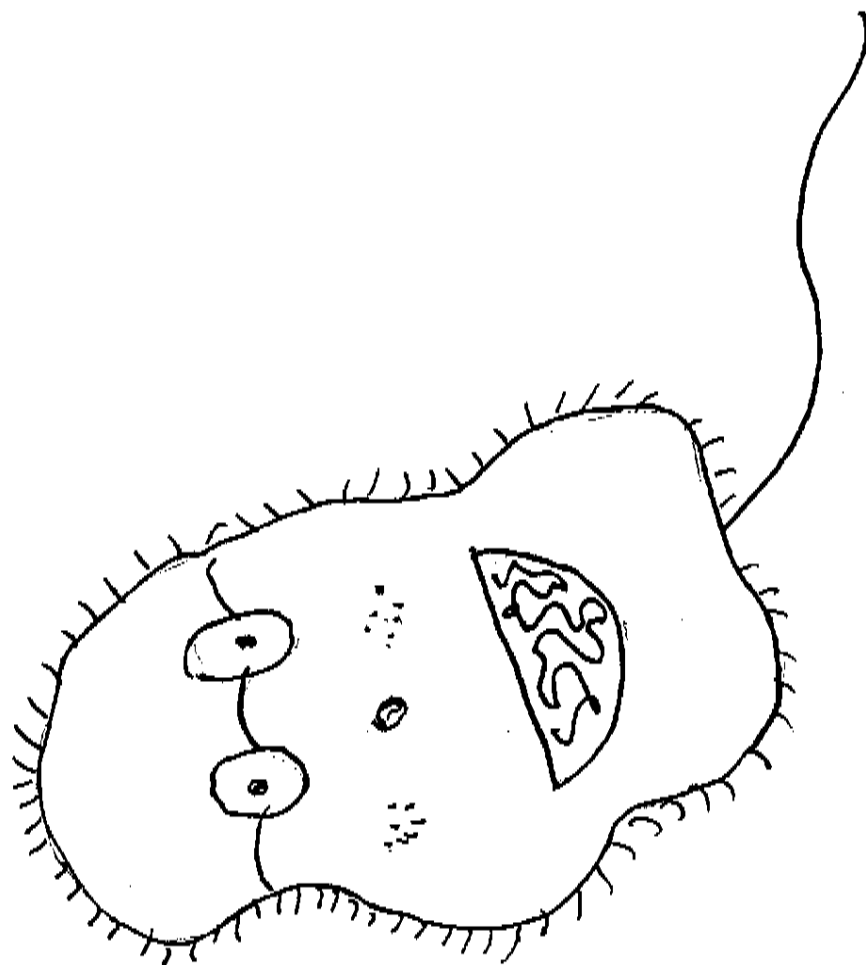


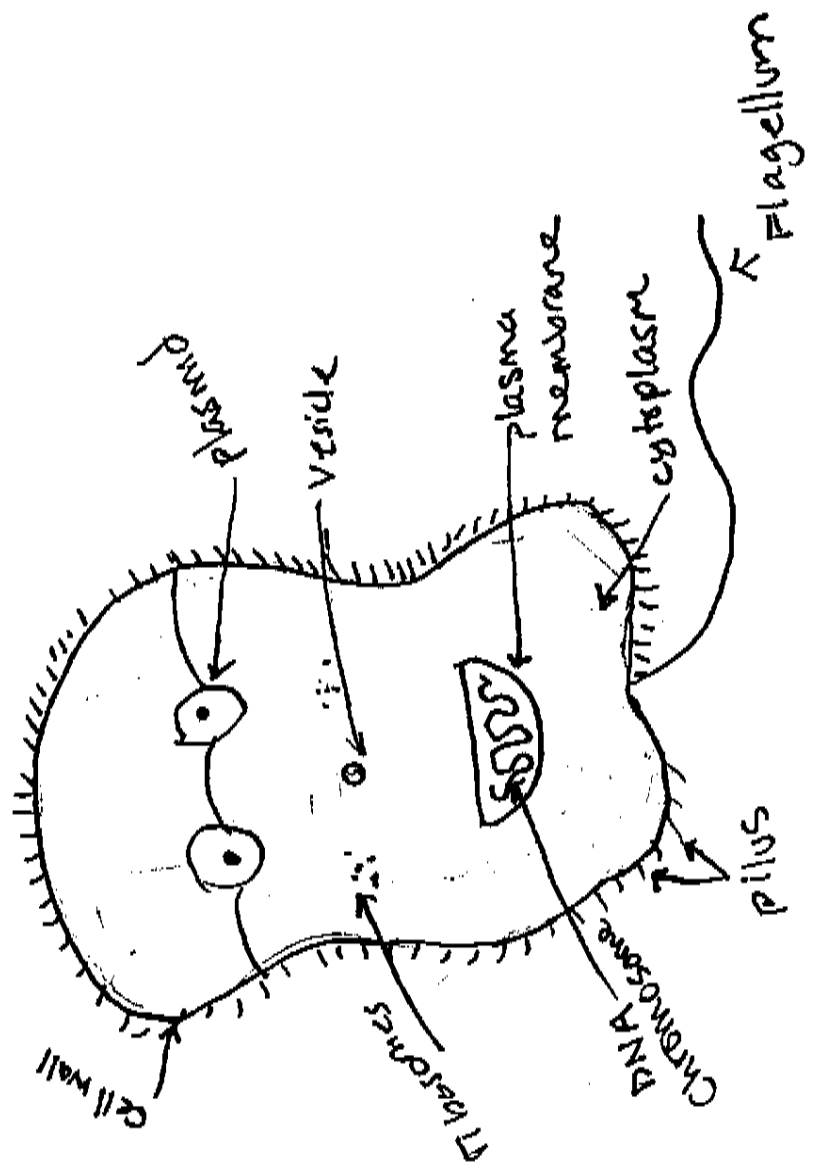
Bacter's First Day of High School

By: Emily Levy

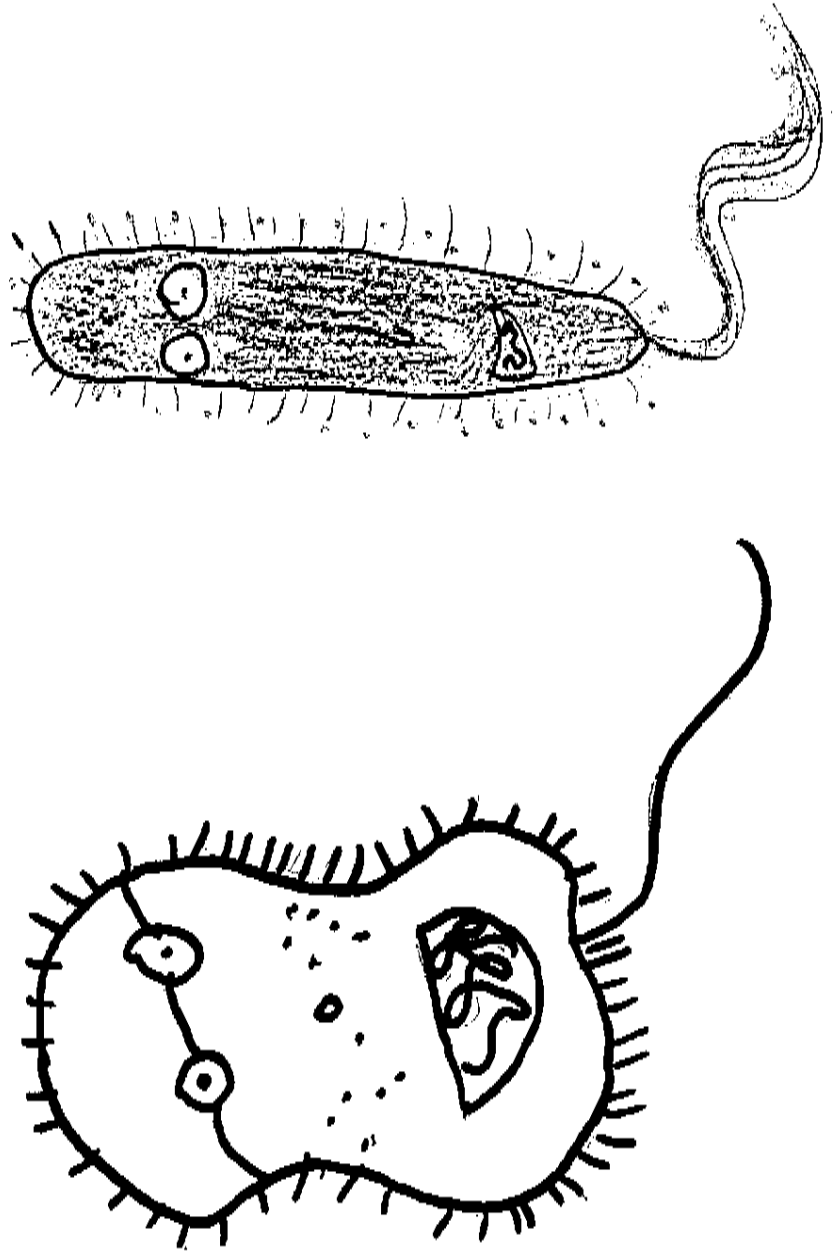


Bacter is a typical bacteria cell. He is attending his first day of high school at Prokaryote High.

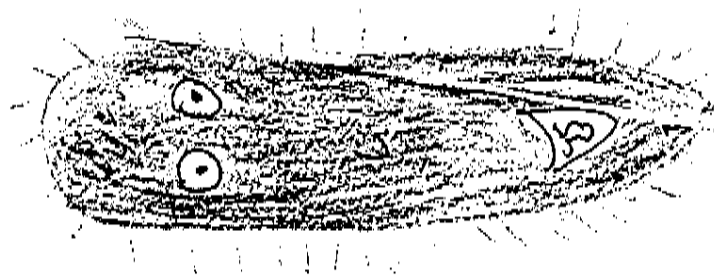
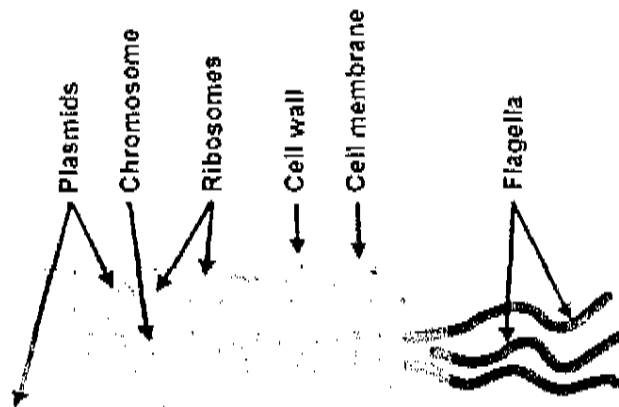




When he walked into his first period class, he noticed that not everybody was from his former school, Spherical Middle School. There, everyone had the same M&M shape to him or her. That's what he had known his whole life! There were teens from RMS (Rod-like Middle School) and SMS (Spiral Middle School). The bteens (bacteria teens) from RMS were shaped like french-fries and the bteens from SMS looked like a stretched out slinky...this made him uncomfortable.

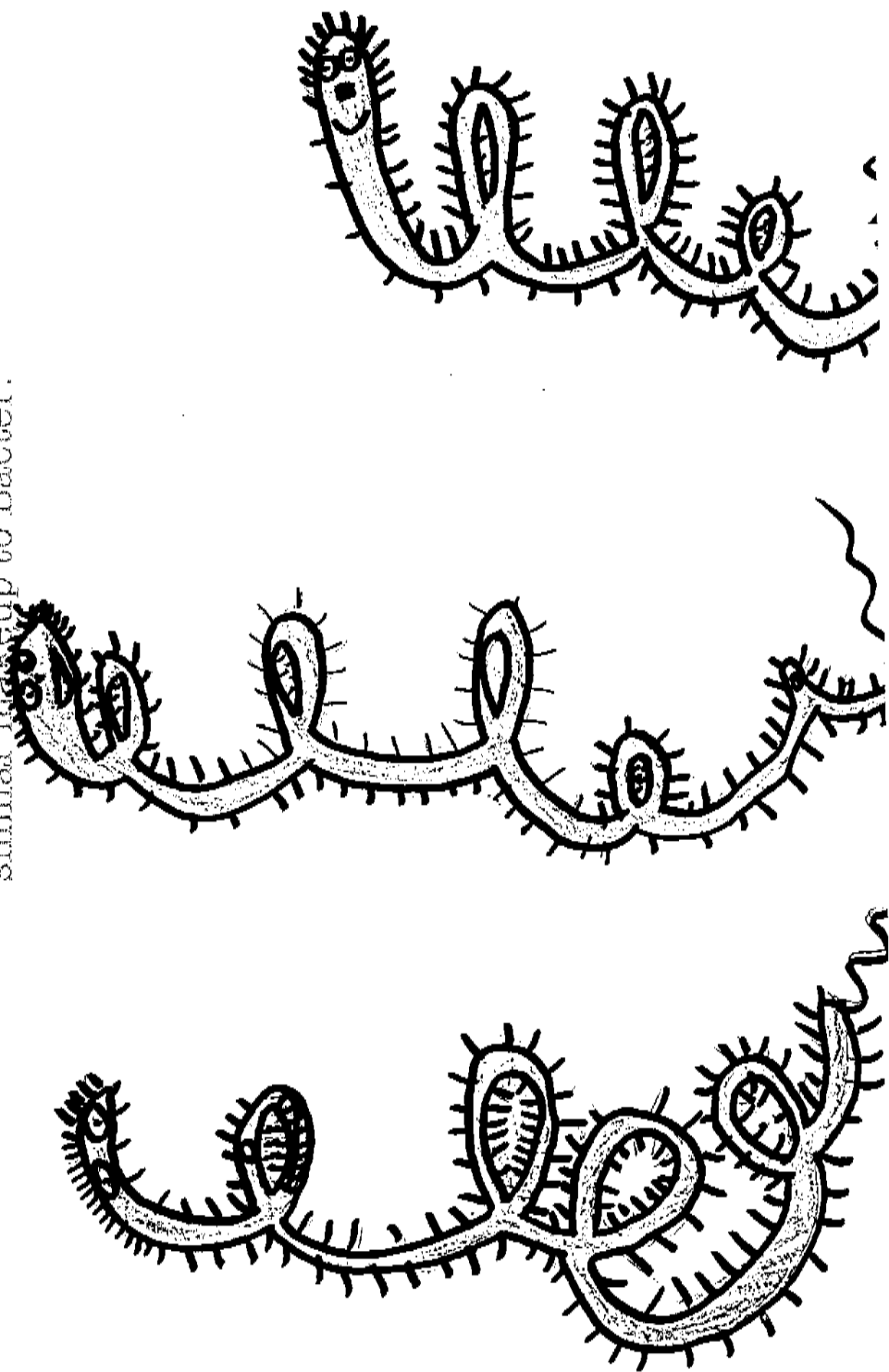


The bteens from RMS seemed the most simple with their up and down shape. They seemed approachable, yet a little uptight with their straightness. Thankfully, they had the same insides as Bacter, so this helped to ease him up a bit.

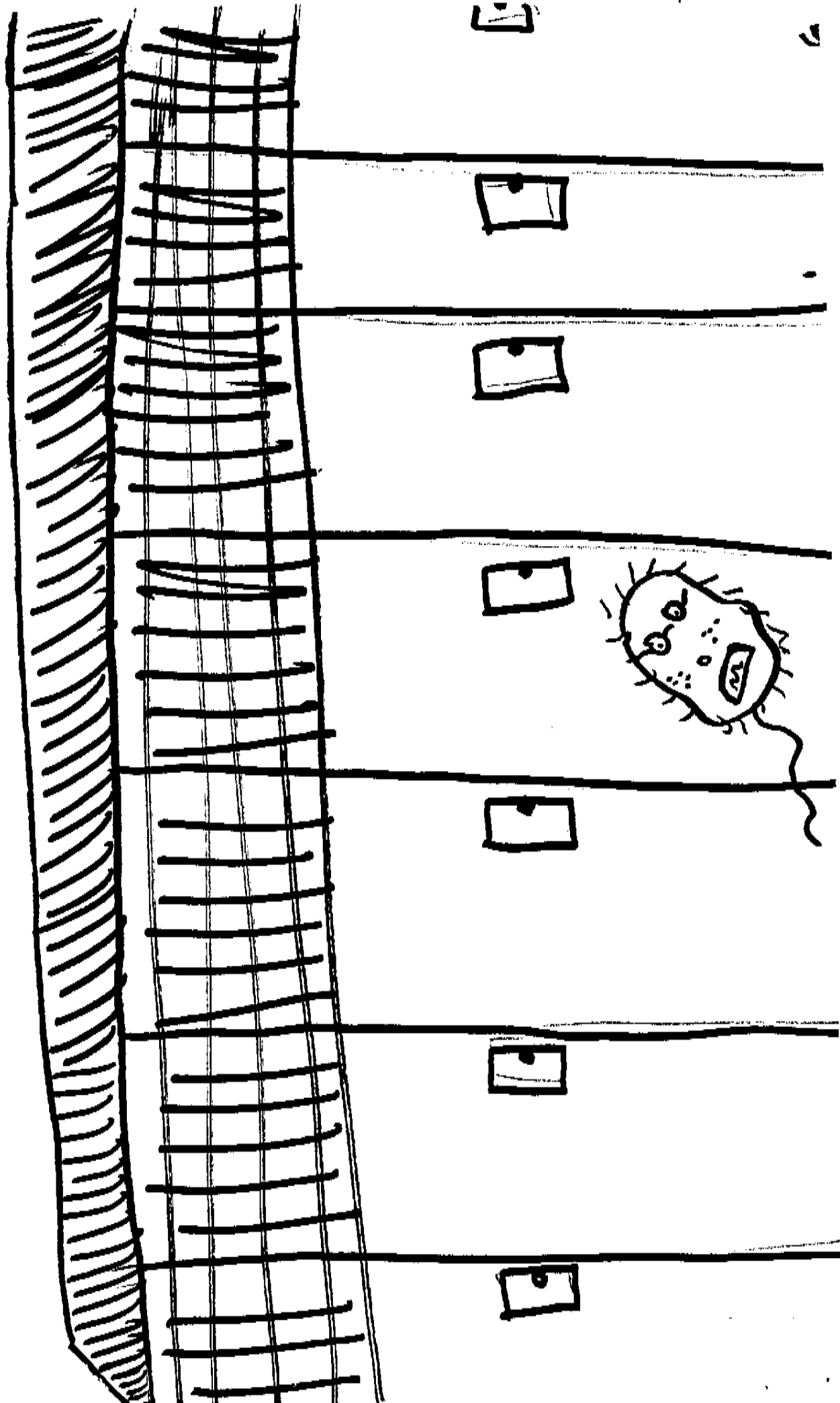


He also met some new bteens from SMS. They were really fun and outgoing with their spiral-shaped bodies. They sprung all over the room and caused the teacher a lot of distraction. They also had a

similar makeup to Bacter.

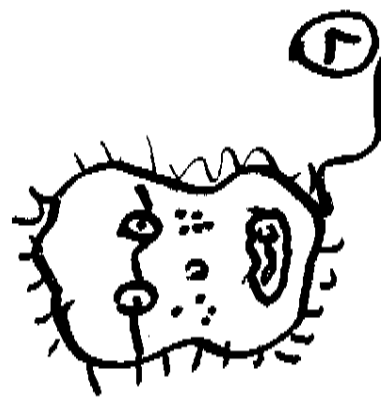
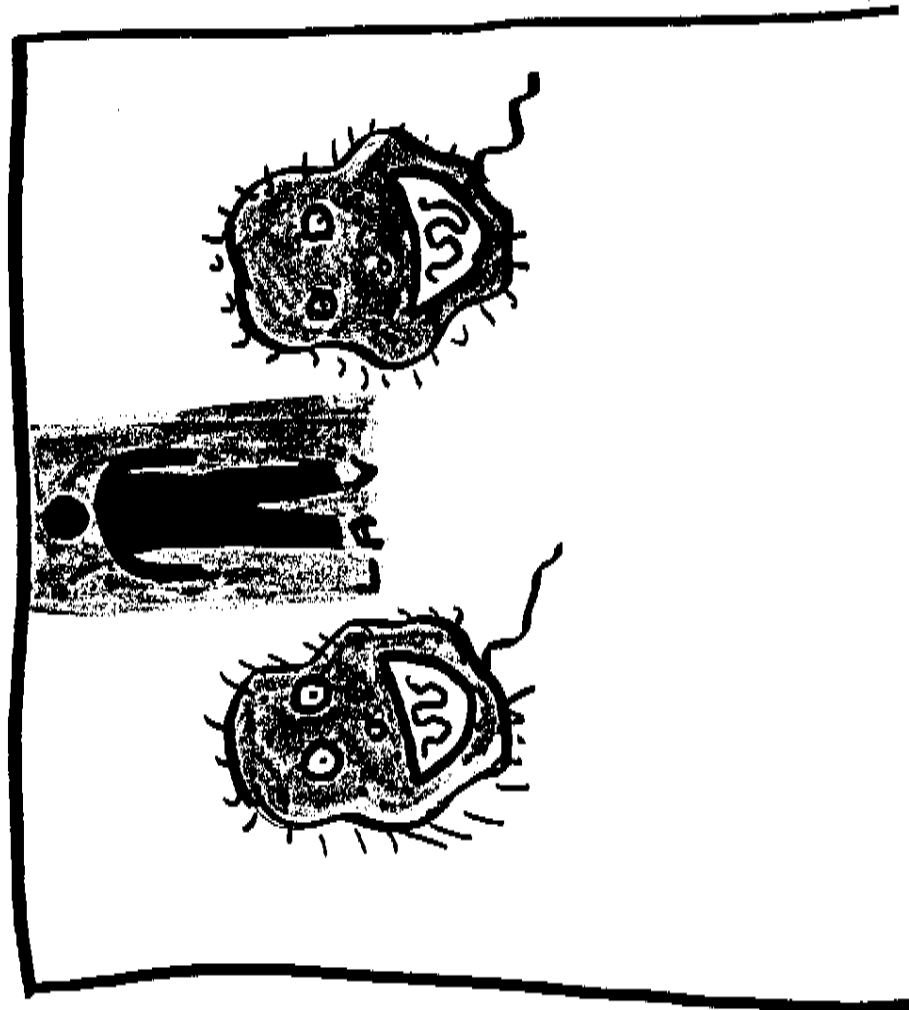


On his way to advisory, he used his flagellum and pili to help him locate his room. He got lost.



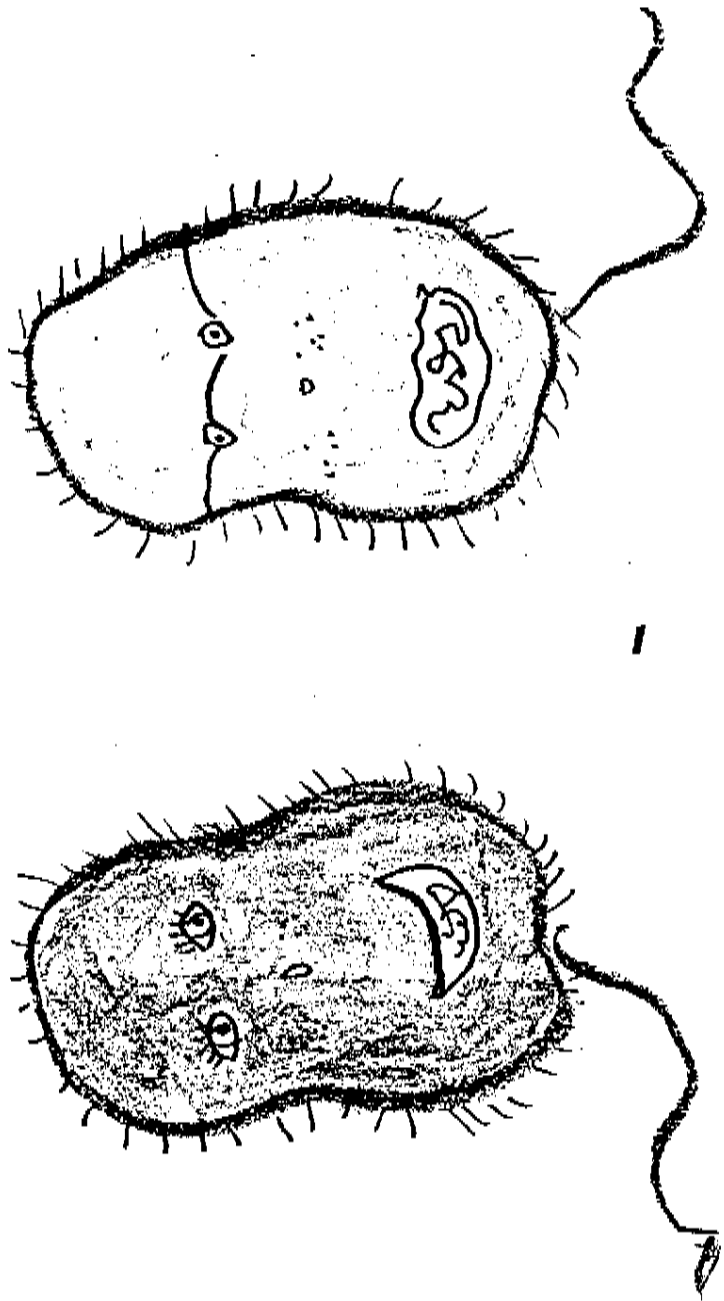
While he was searching, he encountered activities that he never saw in middle school! There were girls and boys in the bathroom being vain and looking in the mirror. As they were saying how

much they admired themselves-Poof! They made a twin of themselves! His best friend, Ria, had warned him of this: asexual reproduction. This is also known as binary fission. He was confused so he asked Ria for more juicy info.

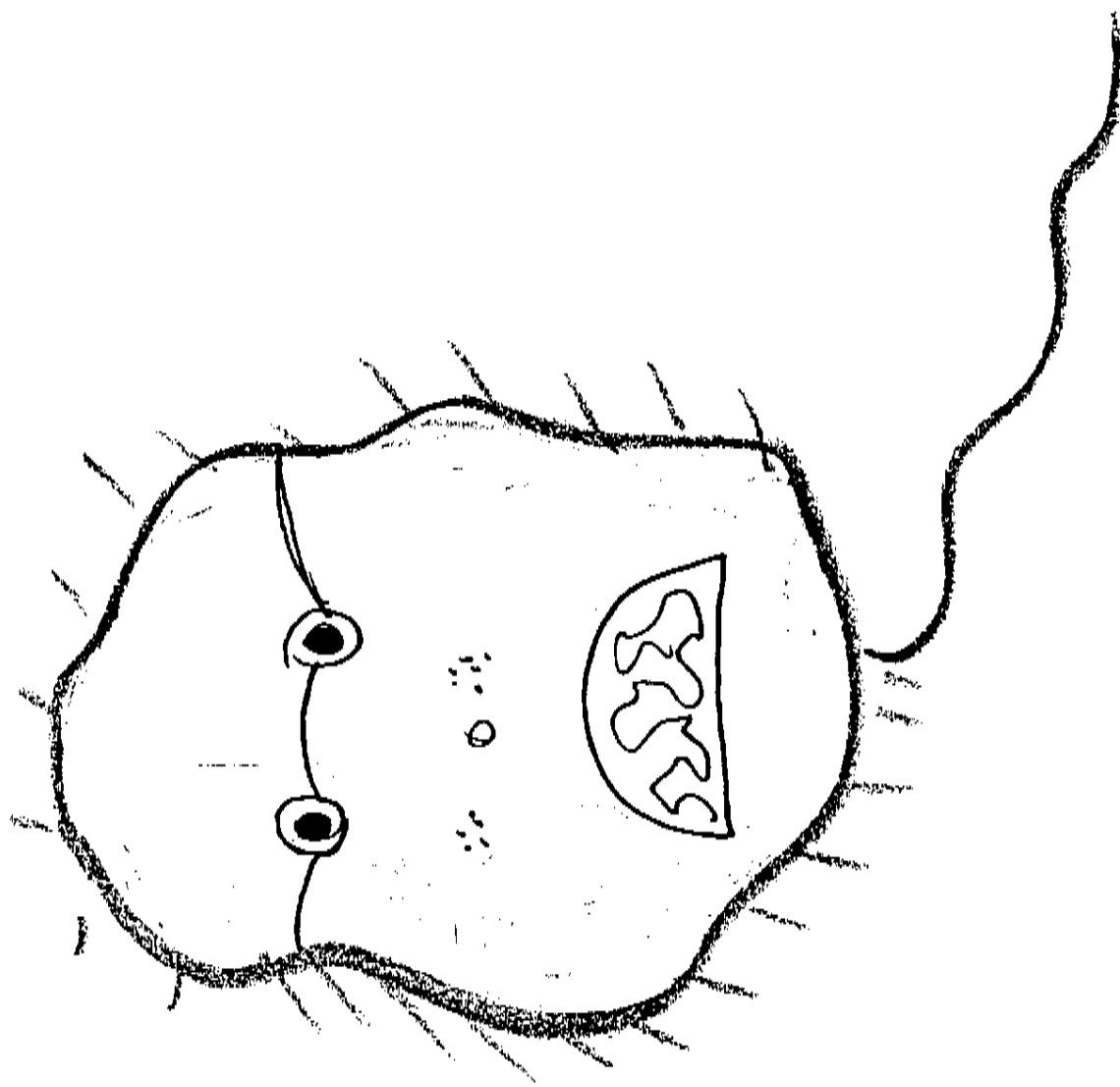


Ria, being the more mature and knowledgeable of the pair, explained to her best friend. "First," she said, "a bteen will elongate their body and make a copy of their DNA. Just like they were stretching. Then, they would start to divide their own cell and plasma membrane, like they were being ripped in two. Next, a cross wall would form to protect themselves and DNA from bullies.

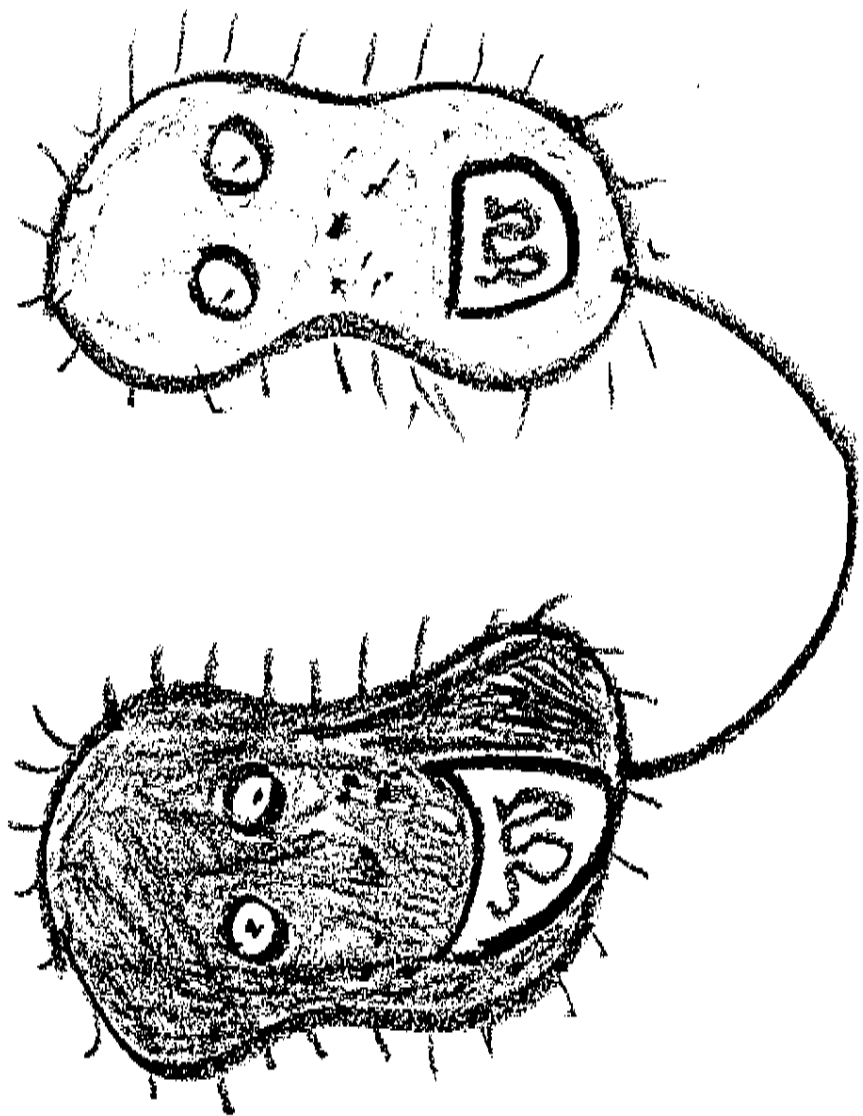
Finally, the bteen would separate and POOF-a twin!"



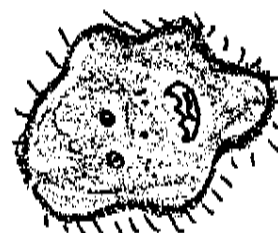
"Whoa! Is that going to happen to me?" asked Bacter. Ria replied,
"Unfortunately, it happens to the best of us."



Bacter continued to use his wip-like flagellum to move through the crowded halls. Then he saw something that blew his freshmen mind: Conjugation! Ahhhh! There were these bteen couples of all kinds and they were holding each other's pius! This was a big no-no in middle school.

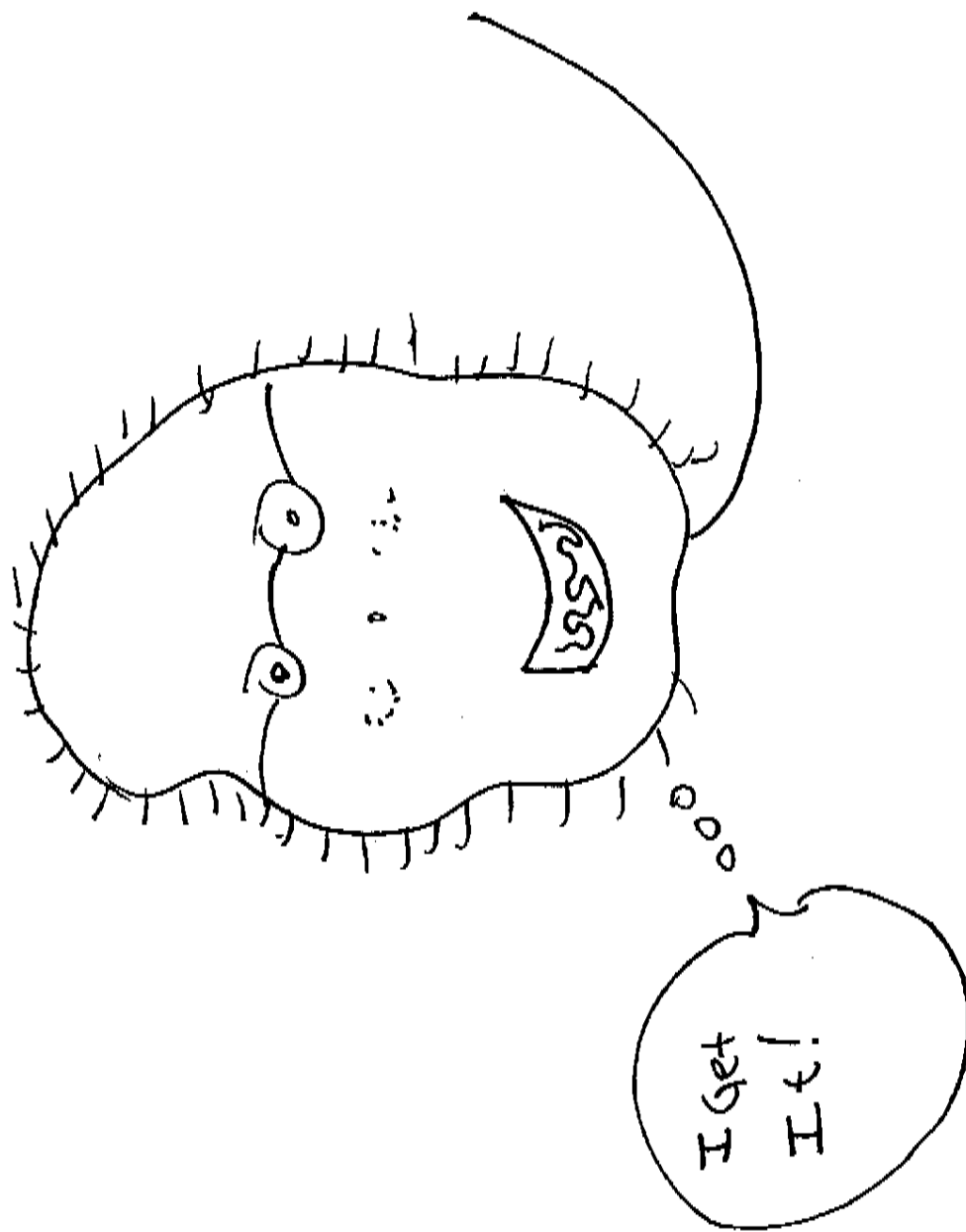


Ria had to explain to his juvenile mind again. She said, "These couples exchange parts of chromosomes and plasnid through their pilus. You know, the bridge like structure hanging out of your backside...then BAM! New baby bteen!"



baby bteen
↙

"Geeze, this high school stuff is complicated!" complained Bacter.
"So let me get this straight. In binary fission, these bteens make a direct copy of themselves because they like the way they look whereas in conjugation two bteens hold each other's pilus and make a new bteen? Woahhhh!"



As Bacter finally made it to his advisory, he realized that maybe
high school was going to be kind of cool!

